

APPENDIX D

Washington State Department of Health Recommendations



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

7171 Cleanwater Lane, Building 4 • P.O. 47825 Olympia, Washington 98504-7825

TDD Relay Service (800) 833-6388

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HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING

Washington State Department of Agriculture has proposed an aerial application of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk) for gypsy moth control in a 560-acre site in Vader later this spring. If you live in the area to be sprayed, you are not likely to experience any health problems due to the spray.

The spray contains bacteria that are natural to soil and have been used for years to kill pest caterpillars. Of the insect sprays used on gypsy moths, Btk is the safest for people and animals. Some workers with high exposure to this product for weeks at a time have experienced mild skin and respiratory reactions. Some members of the general public have also complained of mild skin reactions; eye, nose, or throat irritation; and worsening of asthma or allergies after aerial spraying. The vast majority of persons living in sprayed areas have reported no symptoms.

The Washington Department of Health (DOH) and the Lewis County Public Health Department recommend that people in the area to be sprayed minimize exposure by doing the following:

1. Stay indoors for at least 30 minutes after the spraying to allow droplets to settle.
2. Wait until the spray has dried before letting skin touch the treated leaves and bushes.
3. Wash skin with soap and water if you come in contact with the spray.
4. People in the sprayed area can sign up with the Department of Agriculture (800-443-6684) to be notified the day before spraying.

Special health concerns: It is possible that individuals with certain health conditions may be more sensitive to the spray. If you have asthma, severe allergies to food or food preservatives, or immune disorders, you may want to stay indoors longer or leave the sprayed area during the day of treatment. We encourage people with special health concerns to talk with their personal doctor for advice.

If you have an illness that you think is related to the spraying, please report this to the Department of Health at (360) 236-3360 or toll free at (888) 586-9427.

For more health information:

Lewis County Public Health	Steve Garrett	(360) 740-1233
Washington State Department of Health	Barbara Morrissey	(360) 236-3368
National Pesticide Information Center	npic@ace.orst.edu	(800) 858-7378
Washington Poison Center		(800) 732-6985

